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(54) Title: PHOTOGRAPHIC POLYOLEFIN COA	TED P	RIN	T MATERIALS	

(57) Abstract

Photographic polyolefin coated print materials having improved stability, the polyolefin layer containing titanium dioxide pigment, a hindered amine light stabilizing agent and zinc oxide.

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Photographic Polyolefin Coated Print Materials Background of the Invention Field of the Invention

This invention relates to resin coated photographic print materials and more particularly to photographic papers and paper-like materials.

Polyolefin coated papers suffer from a disadvantage in that when exposed to light, photodegradation occurs resulting in embrittlement of 10 the polyolefin layer due to a loss in molecular weight. When a photographic print is exposed to variations in temperature and/or humidity, it is believed that differential forces are created due to the mismatch of the respective thermal and humidity expansion 15 properties of adjacent layers. Since these forces are relatively small, the polyethylene layer in a relatively new print can resist them. However, as aging occurs, the polyethylene layer becomes more brittle and as a result of these forces, microcracks 20 commonly called crazes form in the resin layer. crazing occurs, the image quality deteriorates and eventually, once the crazing is severe enough, print is destroyed.

This degradation of polyolefin layers is accelerated by the presence of TiO₂ which is necessary to provide the opacity and reflectance required for photographic prints. TiO₂ is unique amongst white pigments for this purpose because its refractive index permits its use in smaller quantities than others.

30 Higher concentration of pigments result in dispersion problems as well as economic disadvantages.

Description of Related Art

U.S. Patents 4,562,145 and 4,582,785 disclose certain hindered amine light stabilizers (HALS) in the polyolefin layer of a resin coated photographic paper to prolong the life of a photographic print in an uncracked form. The polyolefin layer may also contain

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conventional additives including pigments, dyestuff, optical brighteners and the like.

Summary of the Invention

This invention provides a resin coated 5 photographic print material including a paper-like substrate coated with a layer of a polyolefin resin wherein the polyolefin resin layer contains from about 5 to 25 percent by weight of titanium dioxide pigment, at least 0.01 percent by weight of a hindered amine 10 light stabilizer and from about 0.5 to about 4 percent by weight of zinc oxide. It was surprisingly found that the combination of small quantities of hindered amine light stabilizer compounds and zinc oxide added to polyolefin resins coated onto a paper like support 15 improved the stability of the polyolefin coated support by a factor of at least 3 and usually by a factor of 5 or 6 times comparable polyolefin coated substrate containing only a hindered amine light stabilizer as the sole stabilizing agent.

20 Detailed Description of the Invention

Throughout this application the following terms have the meanings assigned hereto:

Paper-like - this terms includes paper materials which have widespread use in the photographic industry as print materials in addition to substrates such as microvoided matrix materials described in U.S. Patents 4,994,312 and 4,770,931, each of which is incorporated wholly herein by reference. A particularly applicable material of this type is one having a matrix material of polyethylene terephalate containing crosslinked microbeads, the material which when oriented in both the machine and transverse direction results in a microvoided sheet material having a white appearance similar to paper.

Hindered amine light stabilizers compounds containing a 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-piperidine moiety and include, for example, bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)sebacate, bis(1,2,2,6,6,-pentamethyl-4-

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is coated on the emulsion side with a pigmented polyolefin and on the other side with a clear or unfilled polyolefin. The polyolefin layer on the emulsion side serves two functions, to prevent wetting of the paper during film processing and to provide the necessary opacity and reflectance properties.

In a preferred method of making the resin coated paper in accordance with this invention, the masterbatch technique is employed wherein high concentrations of appropriate ingredients, such as TiO2, ZnO, hindered amine light stabilizer and the like are compounded into the polyolefin in a suitable apparatus, such as, a twin screw extruder. The master batch is then blended with virgin polyolefin to which various addenda are added to achieve the desired final composition. This composition is then extrusion coated by known methods unto the paper like substrate in the coverage desired.

Any suitable polyolefin resin generally used 20 in the preparation of photographic print material may be employed in accordance with this invention such as for example, polyethylene, polypropylene, including mixtures thereof as well as such polymers having different densities such as, low density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, and the like. 25 other than titanium dioxide may be employed in minor amounts in order to provide the desired opacity to the polyolefin layer as well as to provide the necessary reflectance properties to display the image resulting 30 from the light sensitive layers that are built onto the photographic print material in accordance with this invention, however, TiO2 as the sole white pigment is preferred. Other white pigments include material barium sulphate, antimony trioxide, and the like. 35 Additional addenda may be incorporated into the polyolefin layer including optical brightening agents, colored pigments, dyestuffs, antistatic agents and the like.

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The various layers to convert the paper support into a light reflecting photographic print material, such as silver halide emulsion layers, subbing layers, interlayers and overcoat layers are provided on to the polyolefin coated paper support. The silver halide emulsions employed in the present invention preferably comprise silver chloride grains which are at least 80 mole percent silver chloride and the remainder silver bromide. The silver chloride is preferably present in an amount of at least 90 mole percent and most preferably in an amount of at least 95 mole percent because of the improved speed in processing of the print material.

The silver halide emulsions comprise vehicles conventional in the art. Preferred vehicles are hydrophilic colloids which can be employed alone or in combination with hydrophobic materials. Preferred hydrophilic colloids are gelatin, for example, alkalitreated gelatin or acid-treated gelatin, and gelatin derivatives such as acetylated gelatin and phthalated gelatin.

The silver halide emulsions can be chemically and spectrally sensitized as in common in the art. The emulsions, or other layers of the material, can contain stabilizers, antifoggants, and other components intended to prolong the useful life of the material prior to exposure or of the photographic image obtained after development.

The material will commonly contain one or more dye-forming couplers which will provide the final viewable image. However, other means of forming a viewable image can be employed.

The material will typically contain additional layers, such as subbing layers to improve adhesion to the support and interlayers and overcoat layers to separate and protect the sensitive layers and to carry stabilizers, filter dyes and the like.

Further details of the components of the photographic reflection print material, the way they are prepared, and how they are processed to obtain a viewable image are provided in Research Disclosure, Nov. 1979, Item No. 18716, published by Kenneth Mason Publications, Ltd., The Hold Harbouraster's, 8 North Street, Emsworth, Hampshire P010 7DD, England and from Atwell U.S. Patent No. 4,269,927, issued May 26, 1981.

Print materials in accordance with this 10 invention as well as the control materials were subjected to accelerated aging conditions by incubation over a period of time with samples being taken periodically in order to measure the molecular weight of the polyolefin as a determination of the degree of 15 degradation resulting in the polymer. Both controls containing hindered amine light stabilizing agent as the sole stabilizing agent and with zinc oxide as the sole stabilizing agent were conducted in order to provide a standard from which the improvement can be 20 Specific formulations together with the precise test conditions are set forth in the following examples in which parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise indicated.

Example 1 (Comparison)

- 25 A medium density polyethylene resin was extrusion coated onto photographic paper at a thickness of 5.6 lbs/1000 ft². The opposite side of the paper was coated with polyethylene at a coverage of 6.0 lbs/1000 ft².
- A masterbatch of 36 weight percent anatase TiO₂ was melt compounded with polyethylene using a twin extruder, extruded through an annular die, quenched into a waterbath and pelletized. This masterbatch resin was then blended at a ratio of 1 part masterbatch resin to 2 parts pure polyethylene and then extrusion coated onto photographic paper at a coverage of 5.6

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lbs/1000 ft^2 . The opposite side of the paper was coated similar to Example 1.

Examples 3 - 5

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Masterbatches were prepared in a similar manner as

described in Example 2, with the exception that various other additives as well as the TiO₂ were included; these formulations are shown in Table 1. The masterbatch resins in Examples 3 - 5 were blended and extrusion coated in a similar manner as Example 2, as well as extrusion coated on the opposite side of the paper as Example 1.

Table 1
Formulation (wt%)

Example No.	Anatase TiO ₂	ZnO	Chimassorb 944
3	12 (comparison)	3	0
4	12 (comparison)	0	0.10
5	. 12	3	0.10

A sample of the pigmented resin layer each of Examples 1 - 5 were measured for weight average molecular weight by gel permeation chromotography.

Samples of each of Examples 1 - 5 were exposed to a 100 footcandle light in an oven controlled to 80°C and 50% RH for 7, 14 and 28 days. Weight average molecular weight was remeasured of the pigmented resin layer on these aged samples. The loss of molecular weight of the polyethylene is an indication of its stability and thus related to crazing propensity. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

Molecular Weight After Light Exposure
(Weight Average Mol Wt. X 1000)

Example No.	0 days	7 days	14 days	28 days
1	81.3	77.6	67.4	40.6
2	82.6	4.7	5.1	5.3
3	78.8	16.4	8.4	6.5
4	. 85.4	34.7	5.8	6.1
5	85.1	80.2	83.9	86.0

Table 2 shows that when pure polyethylene is exposed to light, it gradually decreases in molecular weight (Example 1). After TiO_2 is added (Example 2), light

- 5 stability of the polyethylene is dramatically reduced. The addition of TiO₂ also increases L* and causes a shift in b* when measured for color properties using a Pacific Scientific Spectrogard, a spectrophotometer type colorimeter to measure 1976 CIE values for
- lightness (L*) and yellowness/blueness (b*). When ZnO and TiO2 are added (Example 3), an improvement in light stability of polyethylene is observed compared to pure polyethylene, but there is essentially no change in the color properties of the sheet. An improvement in
- polyethylene light stability is also found when a HALS is used with TiO₂ (Example 4). However, when a HALS and ZnO are used in combination with TiO₂ (Example 5), in accordance with the invention, a very significant improvement in light stability is seen; in fact,
- 20 essentially no degradation in molecular weight after 28 days at these severe conditions is observed.

 Examples 6 10

A masterbatch of 1 weight percent Chimassorb 944 was compounded into polyethylene using a twin screw

25 extruder as described in Example 2. Also compounded in the same manner was a second masterbatch containing 15 weight percent ZnO and a third masterbatch containing 45 weight percent anatase TiO₂. Examples 6 - 10 were

made by using various blend ratios of these three masterbatches and pure polyethylene to extrusion coat onto photographic paper. The formulations for Examples 6 - 10 are shown in Table 3.

5 Two sets of samples from Examples 6 - 10 were exposed to the same accelerated aging conditions as Examples 1 - 5; however, these sets were cycled to room temperature twice weekly for examination, thus also exposing them to a temperature and humidity cycle. For 10 the first set of samples, the number of days required at the aging conditions to produce crazing of the pigmented polyethylene coated layer was measured. For the second set of samples, during their room temperature cycle they were wrapped around a 3/4 inch 15 mandrel, and then examined for crazing. The number of days required to produce crazing after the mandrel wrapping were thus measured. All of these results are listed in Table 3.

Table 3

•		Formula	ation (wt%)	Days to	Craze
Example No.	TiO ₂	ZnO	Chimassorb 944	w/o Mandrel	w/Mandrel
6	12.2	0	0	31	11
7	12.2	3.0	0	91	28
8	12.2	0	.10	42	28
9	12.2	1.5	.05	210	139
10	12.2	3.0	.10	280	150

Table 3 again shows that both a HALS and ZnO can be used separately to improve the light stability (up to 3 times improvement in days to craze) of the resin coated layer. However, when a HALS and ZnO are used in combination, a much greater degree of light stability (a 7 to 12 times improvement in days to craze) is found.

Examples 6 - 10 were also measured for color properties regarding the 1976 CIE values for lightness (L*) and yellowness/blueness (b*) with the UV filter in the incident light. These values are recorded in Table 4.

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Table 4

CIELAB	Values	(UVO)
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Example No.	L*	b*
6	95.41	1.64
7	95.53	1.48
8	95.49	1.81
. 9	95.54	1.70
10	95.47	1.68

Comparison of Example 6, with only TiO₂, and Examples 7 and 10 (both with 3% ZnO, Example 10 being the object of this invention) shows that the addition of the ZnO to the formulation has no impact on the color properties of the extrusion coated paper.

Examples 11 - 18

The masterbatches described in Examples 6 - 10 were used to produce extrusion coated paper containing various levels of Chimassorb 944, with all other components constant (3 weight percent ZnO and 12.2 weight percent anatase TiO₂).

Examples 11 - 18 were exposed to the same conditions as 20 Examples 6 - 10, and measured for the number of days to craze, both with and without the mandrel wrapping. The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5

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Examples No.	Wt% Chimassorb 944	Without Mandrel	With Mandrel
11 (control)	0	63	28
12	.01	139	6 0
13	.03	160	91
14	.05	. 242	139
15 "	.07	270	139
16	.10	280	145
17	.15	280	156
18	.20	280	156

Table 5 shows that as little as 0.01 weight percent of a HALS, when used in combination with 3% ZnO, gives a significant improvement in light stability (a 2 time improvement over ZnO alone) of the polyethylene resin coated layer of photographic paper.

Example 19

To the pigmented layer of the support of Example 5

10 is coated, in order with the following layers, layer 1

being adjacent to the support to form a light sensitive element:

1. Blue sensitive laver:

Chemically and blue spectrally sensitized monodisperse silver cloride negative emulsion (0.34 g AG/m^2) and yellow-dye forming coupler Y (1.08 g/m²) in di-n-butyl phthalate coupler solvent (0,.27 g/m²), gelatin (1.51 g/m²)

2. Interlayer:

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Gelatin (0.76 g/m^2)

3. Green sensitive laver:

Chemically and green spectrally sensitized monodisperse silver chloride negative emulsion (0.27 g Ag/m²) and magenta-dye forming coupler M (0.42 g/m²) in di-n-butyl phthalate coupler solvent (0.22 g/m²), gelatin (1.24 g/m²)

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4. UV absorbing laver:

A mixture of hydroxyphenylbenzortriazoles (0.38 g/m^2), gelatin (0.74 g/m^2)

5. Red sensitive laver:

Chemically and red spectrally sensitized monodisperse silver chloride negative emulsion (0.18 g Ag/m^2) and cyan-dye forming coupler C (0.42 g/m^2) in di-n-butyl phthalate coupler solvent (0.24 g/m^2), gelatin (1.08 g/m^2)

10 6. UV absorbing layer:

A mixture of hydroxyphenylbenzotriazoles (0.38 g/m^2), gelatin (0.74 g/m^2)

7: Overcoat laver:

Gelatin (1.35 g/m^2)

The layers 1 to 7 were hardened with bis(vinylsulfonyl)methyl ether at 1.8% of the total gelatin weight.

Coupler identifications are:

 $C = Cyan dye forming coupler: 2-(\alpha-2,4-di-tert-$

20 amylphenoxy)butyramido)-4,6-dichloro-5-ethyl phenol
M = Magenta dye forming coupler: 1-(2,4,6trichlorophenyl)-3-(2-chloro-5(α-(4-hydroxy-3-tertbutylphenoxy)-tetradecanoamido)anilino)-5-pyrazolone
Y = Yellow dye forming coupler: α-(4-(4-

25 benzyloxyphenyl-sulfonyl)phenoxy)- α -(pivalyl)-2-chloro-5-(Y-(2,4-di-t-

amylphenoxy)butyramido)acetanilide. The light sensitive element is kept at 120°F and 50% relative humidity for various periods of time and then exposed and processed at 35°C in a three-step process of colored development (45 seconds), bleach-fix (45 seconds), and stabilization (90 seconds) followed by drying (60 seconds) at 60°C.

The formulations for the above processing solutions are as follows:

(1) Color developers:	
Lithium salt of sulfonated polystyrene	0.25mL
(30% by wt)	-
Triethanolamine	11.0 mL
N,N diethylhydroxylamine (85% by wt)	6.0 mL
Potassium sulfite (45% by wt)	0.5 mL
Color developing agent 4 (N-ethyl N-2	5.0 g
methanesulfonylaminoethyl) 2 methyl	
phenylenediaminesesquisulfate monohydrate	
Kodak Ektaprint 2 Stain-Reducing Agent (a	2.3 g
stilbene material commercially available from	
Eastman Kodak Co.)	
Lithium sulfate	2.7 g
Potassium chloride	2.5 g
Potassium bromide	0.025 g
Kodak Anti Cal No. 5 (an organic phosphonic	0.8 mL
acid material commercially available from	
Eastman Kodak Co.)	
Potassium carbonate	25.0 g
Water to total of 1 liter, pH adjusted to	10.12
(2) Bleach-fix:	
Ammonium thiosulfate	58.0 g
Sodium sulfite	8.7 g
Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid ferric ammonium	40.0 g
salt	
Acetic acid	9.0 mL
Water to total 1 liter, pH adjusted to	6.2
(3) <u>Stabilizer</u> :	
Sodium citrate	1.0 g
Dearside (a biocide produced by Rohm and Haas)	45.0 ppm
Water to total I liter, pH adjusted to	7.2
The developed element exhibits excellen	+

The developed element exhibits excellent resistance crazing.

What is Claimed is:

- 1. A resin coated substrate for photographic prints comprising a paper-like substrate coated with a layer of polyolefin resin, said layer including at least about 0.01 percent by weight of a hindered amine light stabilizer from about 5 to about 25 percent by weight of a titanium dioxide and from about 0.5 to about 4 percent by weight of zinc oxide.
- 2. The resin coated substrate of claim 1 the 10 hindered amine light stabilizer is present in the amount of from 0.01 to about 2 percent by weight.
 - 3. The resin coated substrate of claim 1 wherein the zinc oxide is present in the amount of from about 0.5 to about 3.5 percent by weight.
- 4. The resin coated substrate of claim 1 wherein the titanium dioxide is present in the amount of from about 8 to about 18 percent by weight.
 - 5. The resin coated substrate of claim 1 wherein the titanium dioxide is present in the amount of from about 9 to about 15 percent by weight.
 - 6. The resin coated substrate of claim 1 wherein the hindered amine light stabilizer contains a 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-piperidine moiety.
- 7. The resin coated paper of claim 1 wherein 25 the polyolefin is polyethylene.
- 8. The resin coated substrate of claim 1
 wherein the hindered amine light stabilizer is
 bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)sebacate,
 bis(1,2,2,6,6,-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl)sebacate, n30 butyl-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)bis(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl)malonate, dimethyl
 succinate polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1piperidine ethanol, N-N'-bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4piperidinyl)-1,6-hexanediamine polymer with 2,4,635 trichloro-1,3,5-triazine and 2,4,4-trimethyl-1,2pentanamine or poly(6-morpholino-s-triazine-2,4diyl)[(2,2,6,6-tetra-methyl-4-piperidyl)iminohexa-

methylene[(2,2,6,6-tetra-methyl-4-piperidyl)imino]].

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- 9. A silver halide light sensitive element comprising a paper-like substrate coated with a layer of polyolefin resin, said layer including from at least 0.01 percent by weight of a hindered amine light stabilizer from about 5 to about 25 percent by weight of a titanium dioxide and from about 0.5 to about 4 percent by weight of zinc oxide and at least one light sensitive silver halide emulsion layer on the polyolefin resin layer.
- 10. The light sensitive element of claim 9 wherein the hindered amine light stabilizer is present in the amount of from about 0.01 to about 2 percent by weight.
- 11. The light sensitive element of claim 9
 15 wherein the zinc oxide is present n the amount of from about 0.5 to about 3.5 percent by weight.
 - 12. The light sensitive element of claim 9 wherein the titanium dioxide is present in the amount of from about 8 to about 18 percent by weight.
- 20 13. The light sensitive element of claim 9 wherein the titanium dioxide is present in the amount of from about 9 to about 15 percent by weight.
 - 14. The light sensitive element of claim 9 wherein the hindered amine light stabilizer contains a 2,2,6,6,-tetramethylpiperdine moiety.
- wherein the hindered amine light stabilizer is bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)sebacate, bis(1,2,2,6,6,-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl)sebacate, n
 butyl-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)bis(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl)malonate, dimethyl succinate polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyl)-1,6-hexanediamine polymer, with 2,4,6
 trichloro-1,3,5-triazine and 2,4,4-trimethyl-1,2-
- pentanamine or poly(6-morpholino-s-triazine-2,4-diyl)[(2,2,6,6-tetra-methyl-4-piperidyl)iminohexamethylene[(2,2,6,6-tetra-methyl-4-piperidyl)imino]].

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 92/06928

L CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶				
	to International Patent . 5 G03C1/79	Classification (IPC) or to both National ; D21H19/38;	Classification and IPC CO8K3/22	
II. FIELD	S SEARCHED			
		Minimum Docum	entation Searchel	
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			r than Minimum Documentation : are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸	
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		D TO BE RELEVANT 9		
Category °	Citation of Do	ocument, 11 with indication, where appropr	riate, of the relevant passages 12	Relevant to Claim No.13
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Date of the	Actual Completion of the 28 OCTOB		Date of Mailing of this International Second	urch Report
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